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Ref: Application No. 10/623,631

Mr Cervetti,

Many thanks for your consideration and assistance over the course of this patent application process.

Please find, following, an amended claim which consolidates the previous two claims. This amended claim, which I suppose must be considered "claim 3", superseded and replaces the two previous claims. This amended claim is here presented to you for your consideration in language which should better conform to the prevailing standards.

Regards,

Thomas James Hardman, Jr

Application No.: 10/623,631



1. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions that when executed by a processor cause a computer to perform a method for creating a preconfigured network, the method comprising:

- creating a plurality of nodes of a TCP/IP ("transmission control protocol / internet protocol") network capable of encrypted communications as follows:
  - installing an operating system to a target partition of a computer hard drive mass storage device residing in a computer;
  - compiling an operating system kernel supporting IPsec ("Internet Protocol Security") and a plurality of virtual disks;
  - copying the compiled operating system kernel to the target partition;
  - compiling an authentication server and copying associated files to the target partition;
  - compiling a domain name service ("DNS") server and copying associated files to the target partition;
  - restarting the computer to boot from the target partition;
  - initializing the authentication server which will control authentication and authorization functions for the network;
  - creating instances within the authentication server of specific host and user names and passwords;
  - generating, in a specific directory, multiple unique instances of authentication and authorization information for the authentication server each of which is based on information provided by the configuration files for the domain name service ("DNS") server;
  - configuring parameters for IPsec;
  - configuring start-up parameters for the operating system;
  - configuring the authentication server;
  - configuring the operating system loader;
  - rebooting to an original instance of the operating system to begin per-node generation of iso9660 disc images to be written to storage media;
  - moving the authentication and authorization information for the authentication server from the target partition to a local directory;
  - copying the target partition to a processing partition;
  - iteratively generate unique iso9660 image information, including internet protocol ("IP") address, hostname information, and routing information for the plurality of nodes, from the processing partition;
  - copy the previously-generated host-specific authentication and authorization information which must conform to the newly generated internet protocol ("IP") address from the local directory into the processing partition and write the contents of the processing partition to storage media.